

REPORT OF FAMILY LIFE DIVISION OF THE EXTENSION PRE-CONVENTION SECTION

AMERICAN HOME ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING IN BOSTON

JULY 10, 1950 //

The meeting was called to order by the chairman, Miss Marguerite Little, of Pennsylvania.

Those present, in addition to Miss Little, were:

1. Dr. Margaret Wylie, family life specialist, New York
2. Dr. Katherine Miles, nursery school teacher, University of Maine
3. Miss Gum, home demonstration agent, Illinois
4. Mrs. Florence Abington, family life specialist, Louisiana
5. Mrs. Lydia A. Lynde, extension specialist in parent and family life Education, Washington, D.C.
6. Dr. Dorothy Mummery, family life specialist, Indiana
7. Euriiko Iwaskit, graduate student
8. Frances Arnold, extension editor, Texas
9. Mrs. N. May Larson, secretary, Massachusetts

Ballot:

It was decided to send a ballot for next year's officers to all States asking them to vote for two with the privilege of adding other names if they wish, the one receiving the most votes to be chairman, and the one receiving the second highest number of votes to be recorder.

Names nominated by the group to be placed on the ballot were:

1. Mrs. Alma Jones, Iowa extension specialist in child development and family relations
2. Mrs. Lonnah Backus, Michigan extension specialist in family life
3. Miss Lucile Pepoon, Ohio extension specialist in family life
4. Miss Marguerite Briggs, Illinois extension specialist in family life

Midcentury White House Conference:

Some time was given to Mrs. Lydia Ann Lynde to discuss the Midcentury White House Conference.

She explained the organization on the national, State, and local levels for the purpose of discussing the needs and making recommendations. State leaders and extension directors can write to their State committee members saying we have an organization set-up, what can we do to help? What do you want us to do?

For the conference in December, there will be 3,000 to 4,000 invitations. The Department of Agriculture is asking for 50. The Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and Extension Service

are asking for a few extra. The Extension Service is asking extension workers attending the conference to stay through the following workshop period until Wednesday of the next week. Some directors, some State leaders, some 4-H workers, some home demonstration agents, and some family life specialists are expected to participate in the workshop.

Supervisory problems will be taken up first while administrators are present. Then the workshop members will be assigned to small groups which will work out details for the use of the White House Conference materials in extension programs.

State committees will issue their own block of perhaps 45 invitations which each State will be allowed. The State extension service should ask for invitations.

Mrs. Lynde emphasized the fact that this national conference is not a professional but a people's conference. One purpose is to set up the machinery to help parents do their own job better. Others cannot do it for them.

A number of States have already begun action. It is anticipated that all will be active after the conference. Some of the New York rural needs have been developed around child labor problems. These are different for industrialized farming, for home farms, and for migrant farmers. Emphasis is placed on the child who is hired out to a neighbor rather than on one working with his parents on their own farm.

The Discussion:

Discussion by the group seemed to fall into three main categories:

1. The need for awareness on the part of women of how world situations effect them and their family members in their own homes.
2. The need to keep everything related to the home and what families can do.
3. Resource materials for specialists, home demonstration agents, leaders and group members.

Miss Little opened the discussion by referring to a statement which she had heard Mrs. Raymond Sayre make: "Women are long on enthusiasm and short on facts." Miss Little emphasized the need for rural women to get the facts, to extend their field of interests beyond the home and the community, beyond slides for P.T.A. meetings and school classrooms, and for men to develop more interest in children and family life. A need for government and economics to be included in the education of women was emphasized.

Miss Little threw out some challenging thoughts about knowing facts, names, what the names of government officials and world known persons stand for.

The group agreed with Miss Little on the need for more world understanding, visits to United Nations and more studying of United Nations, the reading and reviewing of books which would help with the understanding of peoples of other lands.

There seemed to be two different points of view: Should we start on the international level and bring the material down to the home, or should we start with the home and go on to world and international problems?

There was continuous reference to the need for simplified materials to be secured and used in discussion plans with families. What can families and individuals do?

Some of the points brought out in the discussion were:

1. Have families list things we depend upon other countries for.
We may travel though we stay at home.
Increase our knowledge and understanding of Germans and Japanese.
2. Groups in communities might make up histories of families at home. They might find the whole world represented in the community.
Illustrations used were: If there is a poisonous snake on a fence post, the post will still be good if we take off the snake. We can take the "bad" from the child and he is all right. We can remove mistaken ideas from people's minds, and they won't fight each other.

All this can be applied to the family where women function to help them see their stake in international affairs, and that each small unit (even the family) has its place in world affairs.

3. Social studies will help us get facts and figures -- this is what is happening. There must be give and take between countries. We need to appreciate and understand tariffs and price supports, to help us know why we pay what we do for wool suit or some other commodity. Women need to know why our taxes are what they are, and what we really get for our taxes.

Someone suggested a family international bulletin board where each family member puts up what he finds, reads, or learns in his contacts with others.

At home within the family we need to broaden the point of view of each one in his own little corner. Give children right reasons instead of false rewards: not, it pleases mother for you to have a clean plate.

Women need to realize the importance of accepting the responsibility of sharing, of voting at the polls, of attendance at school committee meetings, local town and county meetings.

As family life specialists we need to be selective in what international areas we attempt. We need to keep it all related to the home and the family and the effect on children.

To rear children who are more understanding of other people, we need some handles to hold on to. Facts can frighten. We need to avoid the frustrations of "little me" in this big problem. We need enough aggression to get along without knocking others down. Families need help in finding a basis for establishing values of their own. Attitudes begin in the home. It is important to help people think through problems to action.

Resource Materials Listed:

All extension workers are urged to get into television now, wherever possible, on the ground floor with other beginners and learners.

Movies and Films Mentioned

1. Prelude to Life -- National Mental Health Association
2. Human Beginnings -- Corvallis, Oreg.
3. In the Beginning -- U.S.D.A., Washington 25, D.C.
4. Preschool Adventures -- University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa
5. Play Is Our Business -- Miss Jane Lavalley, Sun Dial Films, Inc.,
Park Avenue at Tenth Street, New York 22, N.Y.
6. Understanding Children's Play -- Education Film Library Association,
Inc., Suite 1000, 1600 Broadway, New York 19, N.Y.
7. You and Your Family -- Associated Films, 35 West 45th Street,
New York 19, N.Y.
8. Dating Do's and Don'ts -- Coronet Instructional Films, Coronet Building
Chicago 1, Ill.
9. Developing Responsibility -- Coronet Instructional Films, Coronet
Building, Chicago 1, Ill.

Plays

Producing Packets (Contain enough scripts for each member of cast and 1 for director, plus 2 Discussion Guides.)

Sample Packet (Contains 1 script for each of the 3 plays, plus 1 Discussion Guide.)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Scattered Showers (4 scripts) | (The National Committee |
| 2. Fresh Variable Winds (6 scripts) | (for Mental Hygiene |
| 3. High Pressure Area (5 scripts) | (1790 Broadway |
| | (New York 19, New York |

These plays describe the climate of the home in which children grow.

Books

1. Marriage for Moderns -- Bowman
McGraw Hill
2. A Little Democracy is a Dangerous Thing -- Charles W. Ferguson
Associated Press, New York City
3. The Constitution of the United States
Committee for Constitutional Government, Inc.
205 East Forty-Second Street
New York 17, N.Y.
4. The Road Ahead -- John T. Flynn
Devin-Adair Co.
23 - 25 East Twenty-Sixth Street
New York 10, N.Y.

Pamphlets and Magazine Articles

1. Committee for Constitutional Government, Inc.
205 East Forty-Second Street
New York 17, N.Y.
2. See article in Journal of Home Economics, April 1950,
entitled: Women's Future Education, by
George Stoddard, page 259
3. The United Nations
Pub. 3624, Series III, 36
Department of State
Superintendent of Documents (15 cents)
U. S. Government Printing Office
Washington 25, D.C.
4. Spotlight on Spies
100 Things You Should Know About Communism
Committee on Un-American Activities
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.
5. Think Fast, America, by Lambert Schuyler
Lambert Schuyler
P. O. Box 391, Hollywood, Calif.
6. Interpreter, a semimonthly publication on decentralization.
School of Living
Suffern, N.Y.
7. Community Service News, a bimonthly publication.
Yellow Springs, Ohio

8. Parent Teacher Series

- a. DISCIPLINE, James L. Hynes, Jr.
- b. BEING A GOOD PARENT, James L. Hynes, Jr.
- c. READING IS FUN, Roma Gans
- d. UNDERSTANDING CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOR, Fritz Redl
- e. GETTING ALONG IN THE FAMILY, Jane Mayer
- f. UNDERSTANDING YOUNG CHILDREN, Dorothy W. Baruch

Bureau of Publications
Teachers College
Columbia University

9. Short Facts About America
Farm Journal, December 1949

10. League of Women Voters have pamphlets listing how Congress members voted on different issues. These are sold at a small price.

11. Pamphlets from:

Research Division of the
School of Living
Suffern, N.Y.

There was no formal closing of the meeting. Each person present made a statement of things she was trying to do in her own State.

signed: Mrs. N. May Larson
Recorder